

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Ellwood Crankshaft & Machine

Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

Ellwood Crankshaft & Machine Gets Serious about Lean

Client Profile:

Ellwood Crankshaft & Machine is a division of the Ellwood Group that machines and reworks large crankshafts for compressors, pumps, and mechanical presses serving the oil and gas industries. Located in Hermitage, Pennsylvania the company employs 120 people.

Situation:

Ellwood Crankshaft & Machine was being challenged by strong markets, limited manufacturing capacity issues and missed delivery dates. They wanted a Lean assessment and implementation to help reduce waste, increase capacity and sales and shift the shop floor supervision and workforce culture to engage in Lean practices and behaviors. The company contacted the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help in Lean education and implementation.

Solution:

NWIRC conducted a five-session training program introducing the company to Lean methodologies and related tools. Upon completion of the educational component, the NWIRC helped Ellwood Crankshaft & Machine execute a Value Stream Map (VSM). Current and future state maps were prepared. Through the VSM, objectives were developed, and actions, time lines and responsible individuals were identified.

Results:

- * Reduced cycle time by 38 percent, from 15.25 days to 9.5 days.
- * Reduced changeover time by 54 percent.
- * Improved delivery time and profitability.
- * Invested in new equipment.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

Testimonial:

"The Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center was able to help us through the Value Stream Mapping process to identify opportunities to increase our cellular flow, reduce processing touch time, and shrink operating costs to make us more competitive."

Brian Taylor , President